

# Textual Analysis of Rohingya Crisis in CNN News

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## ABSTRACT

News media gives information what happened recently in the world. This study aims to explore the textual analysis of Rohingya crisis in CNN News article. The textual analysis of critical discourse analysis by Van Dijk shows three element; macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. In so doing, the study analyzed the news article during November, 2017 – December 2017. Furthermore, the finding is triangulation with critical discourse analysis theory by Fairclough to support findings and avoid subjectivity. The results of the study for macrostructure is the religion in Myanmar influence Myanmar's government, for superstructure is the CNN News little wordy, but it is interesting for the reader to find out more what Muslim Rohingya condition and for microstructure use stylistic word choice that dramatizes the circumstances in order for the reader as if it has its own arguments. The conclusion is Rohingya are bad condition and make the important figures in the world such as apologize for Rohingya refugees.

**Keywords** – Textual Analysis; CNN News Article; Muslim Rohingya

## I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, news media has the most important role in our lives. The news means information or reports about something that has happened recently. It really gives a lot of information, accurate and constantly updated. This research investigates the textual analysis that focuses on the use of language used by the writers in the preaching of Rohingya crisis on CNN News Website. CNN (the length of Cable News Network) has great influence worldwide with more than 200 countries re-broadcasting news and more than 150 million viewers. The development of internet in the digital age is increasing rapidly, many people prefer reading news via website or phone than buying direct. Rohingya crisis has reaped international attention at that time after the riot in the year 2012. Gradually, this minority ethnic Rohingya oppressed, so the refugees make effort to escape. The researcher wants to know how the perspective in presenting CNN news article about Muslims Rohingya use Critical Discourse Analysis. Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a discourse analytic research especially learn how to abuse of power and social inequality are enacted, reproduced, was inaugurated, and rejected by text and talk within the context of social and political. Critical discourse analysts want to know what are the structures, strategies, or other text properties, speak, verbal interaction or communicative events played a role in the reproductive mode [1]. Critical discourse analysis stresses on the power that occurs in the process of production and reproduction of text or meaning. Similarly, the language used in the text media is understood as a representation of a role in shaping a particular subject, specific themes, and strategies in it.

Related to above discussion, here, in this study, researcher wants to analyze the textual analysis of three news are presented. Textual analysis can provide insights into the great about what is in the text and a valuable supplement to social research [2]. So, to know the textual analysis on CNN news article about the Muslims Rohingya crisis, the researcher uses critical discourse analysis by Van Dijk to facilitate the process of research. By performing textual analysis through three levels or element in macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructures, it is expected that the researcher can find the results of statement of problem. Macrostructure, pointing towards the global meaning which retrieved from theme or topic of discourse. Superstructure, this level actually divided into three parts namely, headline, lead, and story also focus on schematic. Last about microstructure, it focuses and can be observed on local meaning of discourse or semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetoric by analyzing propositions, sentences, phrases, and words.

From the statement above, there are several previous studies related to this research. Firstly, the study about Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of the CNN and China Daily South China Sea Reports [3]. Their study analyzed the viewpoint of word choice, deeply analyzed news report from CNN and China Daily USA and try to reveal the ideological point of view behind the text. CNN and China Daily have differences in some words selection category when reporting the same events but because the difference of ideology and political goals, the influence of the American media and the China media spread the fair and objective truth that actually imply ideology and the attitude their own political and organization strength that they stand for. Their findings it is almost with the main research that the news report has different word choice. Further study about Ideological Representation of Power in Media Convergence that was analyzed based on critical discourse analysis of

Norman Fairclough, consisting of a micro structure (text), meso structure (discourse practices), and macro structure (socio-cultural) [4]. Their study aims to find, discover and describe the development discourse, ideological representations of power, and epistemological implications of discourse construction in Compass Group, Media Group, and MNC Group during the presidential election campaign of the year 2014. Previous second study almost same with third study about determine which one element Textual Analysis by Fairclough especially Microstructural of Ahok In Jakarta Gubernatorial Election 2017 in written Jawa Pos [5]. The findings of third study that microstructural showed religion blasphemy is the most dominant diction used.

## II. METHODOLOGY

The method of data analysis used in this research is qualitative descriptive method. The analysis used textual analysis by Teun a. Van Dijk. This analysis observes three element including macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The main data in this research is taken from news article on CNN about Rohingya crisis, violence, and the effect on the world. Edition of news article from November, 2017 until December, 2017. Analysis text focuses on the meaning global of the text, structures text media, such as opening; contents; and closing, word choice, syntactic and so on. To collect the data, the researchers take the following steps: (1) observe all the news on the CNN online media; (2) observe the news by reading and understanding the content of the news directly about Rohingya; (3) mark and classify paragraphs, sentences, and words based on element textual analysis of critical discourse analysis by Van Dijk; (4) then analyze and checking the validity of the data. In other side, the researcher uses triangulation data to cross-checking data from multiple sources to search for regularities in the research data. Using triangulation data to take several methodological perspectives or theoretical perspectives on an issue study [6]. And also develop a comprehensive understanding of discourse analysis based on Van Dijk's model and Fairclough's model.

## III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

There are three news articles which are presented in this section. The following data is taken for the analysis of data by three element textual analysis, macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure.

### a. Macrostructure

The news article shows about the causes of the crisis of the Rohingya where lies the cause of such errors with the Government of Myanmar that Buddhist majority who can't protect its citizens or the Muslim Rohingya errors. From here, the topic or theme is the influence of religion in the Government of Myanmar. Quotes that researchers take as follows.

The main threat? Islam, says Thaw Parka, a monk who speaks for a hardline, monk-led Buddhist nationalist group known as Ma Ba Tha -- the Association for the Protection of Race and Religion [7].

It makes Myanmar Muslims against the treatment of Buddhists, as well as the concerns of against the Muslim population. The world knows what the Rohingya happen, so Pope Francis apologize to Rohingya refugees for the world's cruelty and indifference to them.

### b. Superstructure

The news article in CNN News was found the summary and story. For summary, divided into headlines and leads. After heard what happen in Myanmar especially ethnic Rohingya, Pope Francis's come to Bangladesh. Its mean that the presence of some religious leaders conducts a hearing on religious diversity and is likely to contain a discussion of the Rohingya Muslim condition. It can be seen as follows.

After his speech, the Pope met a group of Rohingya refugees one by one, giving some of them blessings and listening to the stories of others [8].

Then, the writer also reviews Suu Kyi's statement in realizing the beauty of diversity by ensuring security for all parties. But, there is only imaging. It is also aligned with comments on; (1) Hate speech against Muslim Myanmar, (2) Alleged religious clash between Islam and Buddha is used as a political tool by hidden people.

### c. Microstructure

This level focus on four elements. The elements are semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetoric. Here is an analysis of semantic, syntactic, stylistic, and rhetoric:

The semantic looks at the meaning of the text include background, detail, and pre-assumption. The writers explained the text meaning that the crisis's Rohingya that caused 600,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh instead of genocide but the weakness of the Myanmar government in maintaining the moral integrity of the country.

1. It's a view shared between many of the country's Buddhist majority, who have little sympathy for the Rohingya and have reacted defensively to the international outcry (CNN, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017)
2. "Your tragedy is very hard, very big. We give you space in our hearts," the Pope said. "In the name of everyone, of those who persecute you, those who hurt you, and especially of the world's indifference, I ask for your forgiveness. Forgive us." (CNN, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017)

3. A recent Burmese Human Rights Network report documented 21 villages erecting signs warning Muslim not to enter (November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017)

From the example above, we can see that CNN News article delivered Islamophobia by the majority of Buddhists uneasy for Muslim Myanmar Non-Rohingya because they always accuse as extremist Islam. The writers also present that it also made a lot of a tension between the Rohingya Muslims and the Myanmar's government. It makes that Muslims considered negative and Muslim and greatly feared by some people if doing terrorist act. The writer intends to describe other terms of the Rohingya, Muslims considered negative and greatly feared by some people if doing terrorist act. Then, Pope Francis minimize a tension between the Rohingya Muslims and the Myanmar's government.

It looks that semantics related to the topics, Muslims influence the government.

In syntactic looks at the forms of Sentences, coherence, and pronoun. We can see at the sentences below:

1. Myanmar's military also denies genocide, saying it is targeting Rohingya militants that launched deadly attacks on police posts on August 25 (CNN, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017)

2. In April, two Islamic schools were closed in Yangon's Thaketa township at the behest of angry mobs (November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017)

It looks that word of were closed highlight the object of the sentence of the masses that hate Muslims, while the word 'denies' which means to refuse used for a person (Myanmar's military) to be the subject of his response.

In stylistic, the writer used lexicon to dramatize attitudes, and provoke actions. And also, the writer leads to the condition of Rohingya's who fled to Bangladesh. We can see at the sentences below:

1. Thaw Parka says that he and his group work in harmony with "educated Muslims who live among the indigenous people of Myanmar" and he only opposes Muslim extremists and terrorists that threaten Myanmar's sovereignty (CNN, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017)

2. The international community has been outraged by the stories of fleeing refugees (CNN, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017)

In addition, using word choice by the writer that Rohingya Crisis make tension between Muslims and Buddhist. It means that the effect of religion can impact the Myanmar's government.

While in rhetoric, the writer wrote the sentences which considered prominent. It can be seen as follows:

Her government labeled his killing an act of terrorism, saying personal antagonism and "extreme nationalism" were behind the assassination. A trial of several suspects is underway and an Interpol red notice has been issued for the arrest of Aung Win Khaing, who served in the military until 2014 [9]

It describes the existence of acts of terrorism through nationalism owned and Rohingya's are regarded as the victors of their suffering without any concern for the state.

Based on the data that has been analyzed as above that humanitarian crisis happening in Myanmar also brought the impact or problems of religion. To avoid subjectivity in the data, the researcher did a triangulation of the data from the perspective of textual analysis model of Van Dijk with other theories of textual analysis model the Fairclough, how the connections between the text of macro, meso and, micro level. The textual analysis of the two models has some similarities based on the context being analyzed, and this is a way of reinforcing the above analysis data to be accepted as valid data. To find "reality" behind the text we need to search context of text production, and consumption aspects of social culture that influenced the creation of text. While in sociocultural analysis is the need to address issues such as power relations that underlie the emergence and survival of a certain type of discourse [10]. It means that both of them similarities between Van Dijk's model and Fairclough model.

The writer used a specific and official words terms that help to convey power of a text. Further states that when there is a choice of lexicalization, choosing one word than the other often has a contextual reason. Three news articles above shown about Rohingya Crisis refers to mistake of Myanmar's Government.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

From the results above Rohingya crisis make the issue of religion and giving impact for the own Rohingya people, other Muslims and the world. In other side, Rohingya are bad condition. It makes the important figures in the world such as Pope Francis provides information about the impact after the Rohingya crisis. The choice of language features support microstructure to found that tension between the Rohingya Muslims and the Myanmar's government is very cruel and not necessarily over.

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